REMARKS

Applicants have amended the title of the invention as required by the Examiner.

The location of the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" has been changed to be added above line 24 on page 3 of the specification. However, Applicants note that in complying with the requirement to move the heading, Applicants have not changed the disclosure of the invention which includes a description of the problems associated with the prior art. The analysis of the problems with the prior art was determined by Applicants and forms a part of the present invention.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 18, 22 and 23 to overcome the claim objections noted by the Examiner. In particular, Applicants have adopted the suggestions proposed by the Examiner to overcome the claim objections or rewritten the parts of the claims to which the objections were directed.

Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph rejections.

The claims stand rejected as being anticipated by Judd et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,768,623 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or as being obvious over Judd et al (Judd) in view of Sato, JP 410171559A (Sato) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicants request reconsideration of these rejections for the following reasons.

In particular, the present invention is directed to RAID control in storage subsytems and in particular to RAID control in which one storage device maintains a mirroring structure in synchronism with another storage device paired with the one device, as in RAID 1. Further, a storage subsytem having more than two storage devices is also disclosed by Applicants.

According to the invention, in response to a data write request from a host, one of paired storage devices that has a predetermined area for the data will process the data write request. After the writing of the data according to the data write request, the other of the paired storage devices sends a request to send the data from the one device. In response, the one device reads and sends the data to the other, maintaining the same data contents among the pair of the devices. The present invention is also suitable for other RAID levels as well as for parity data generation and other disk operations.

Judd is directed to a data transferring system that sends a command by using a routing function. Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to set forth that the information processing indicated by the received request is executed by the first storage device based on cooperation control information which indicates a request to be executed by the first storage device. This aspect of the claimed combination is not disclosed or suggested by Judd. Therefore, the

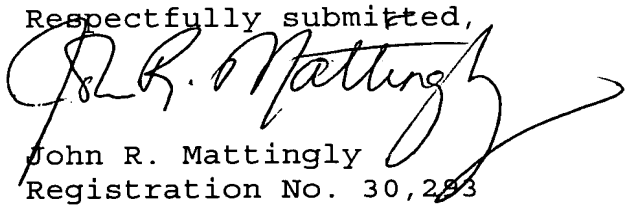
reference does not anticipate claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In Sato, the processor system connects with peripherals by collating ID codes stored beforehand respectively in the first ID storage part of the peripheral equipment and the second storage part of the information processor. The peripheral equipment is connected to the information processor only when the IDs match. However, the combination of Judd and Sato does not render claims 3, 8, 11, 16, 19 and 24 unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants have added independent claims 25-27, which correspond to claims 5, 13 and 21. Since each of claims 5, 13 and 21 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, claims 25-27 should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 18, 2004

FIG. 6

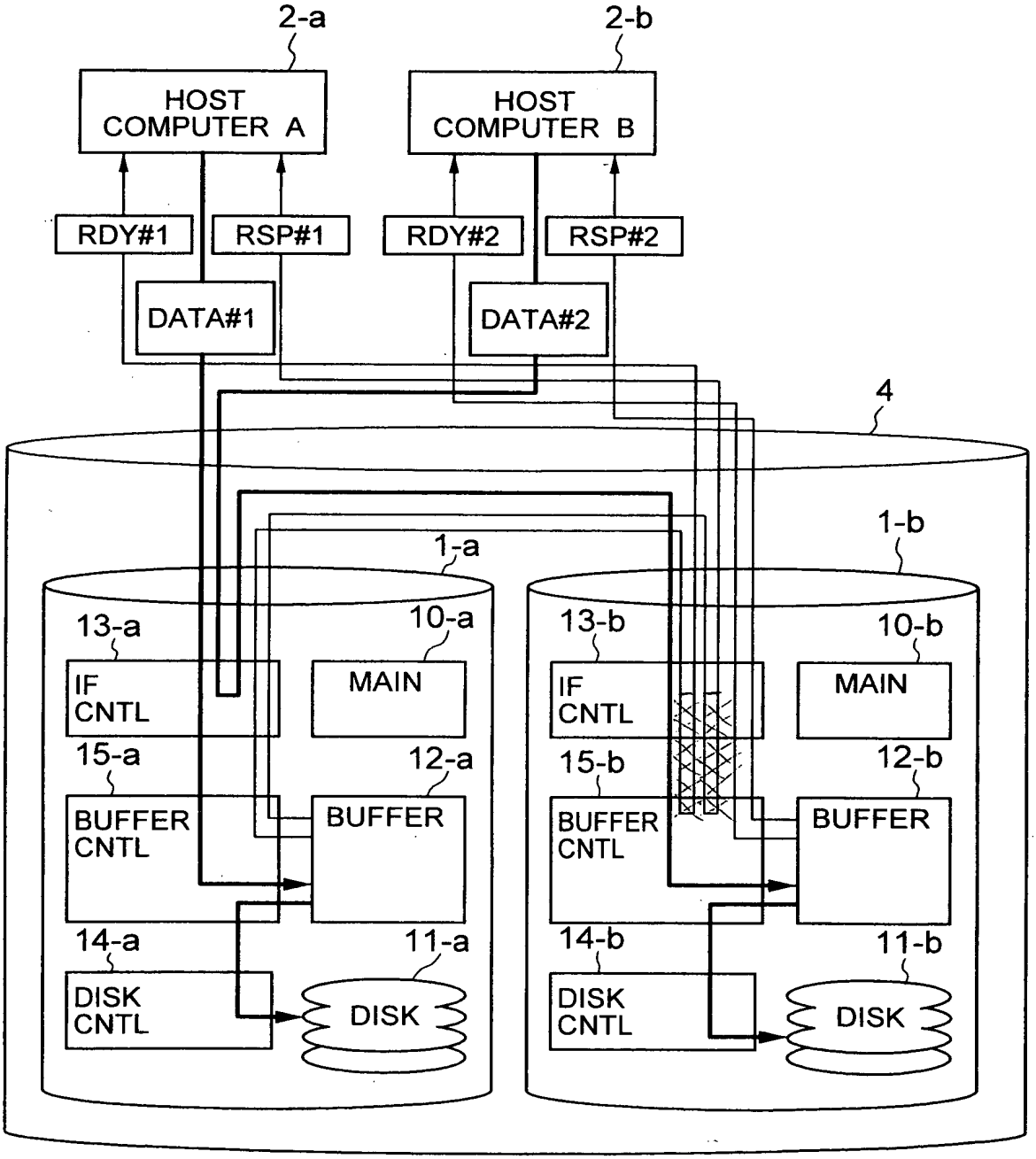

FIG. 7

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#	UN-UPDATED AREA START ADDRESS	UN-UPDATED AREA SIZE	UPDATE INFORMATION
0			
1			
2			
·			
N			

FIG. 8

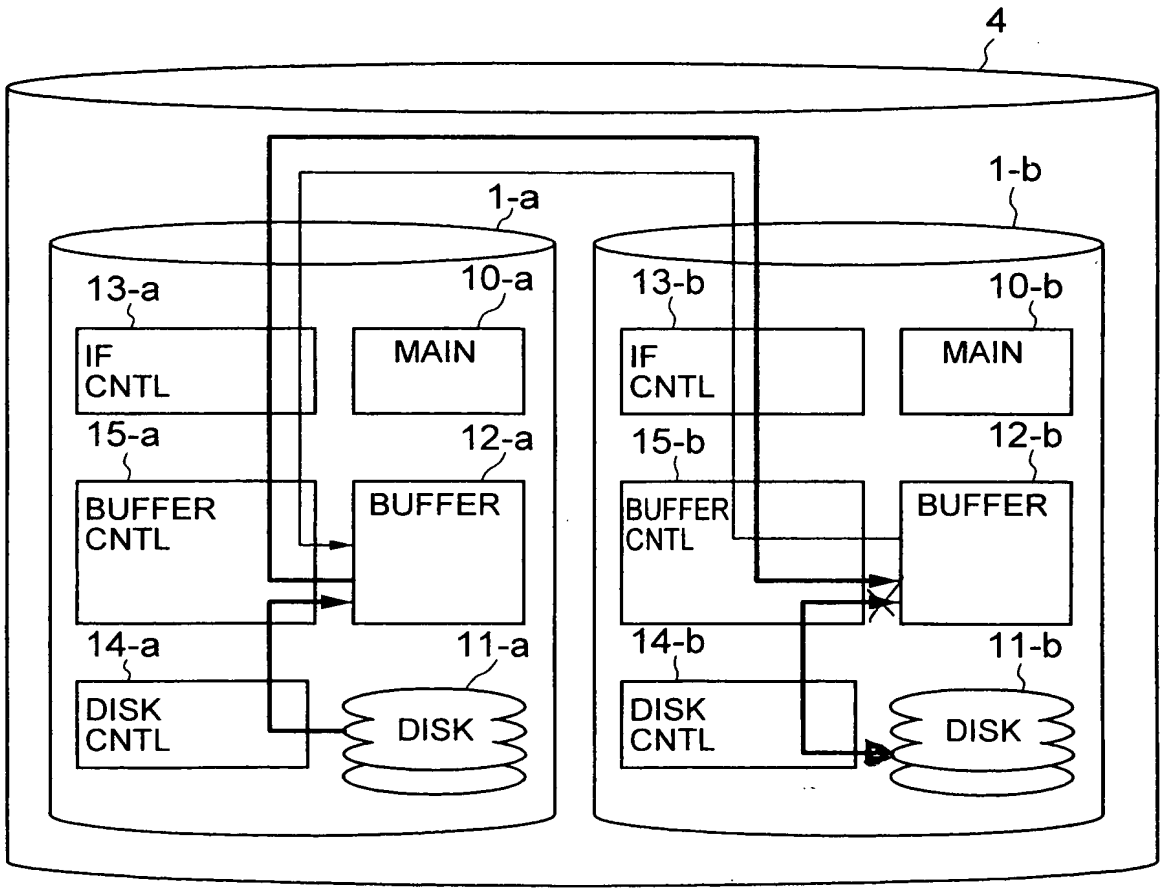

FIG. 28

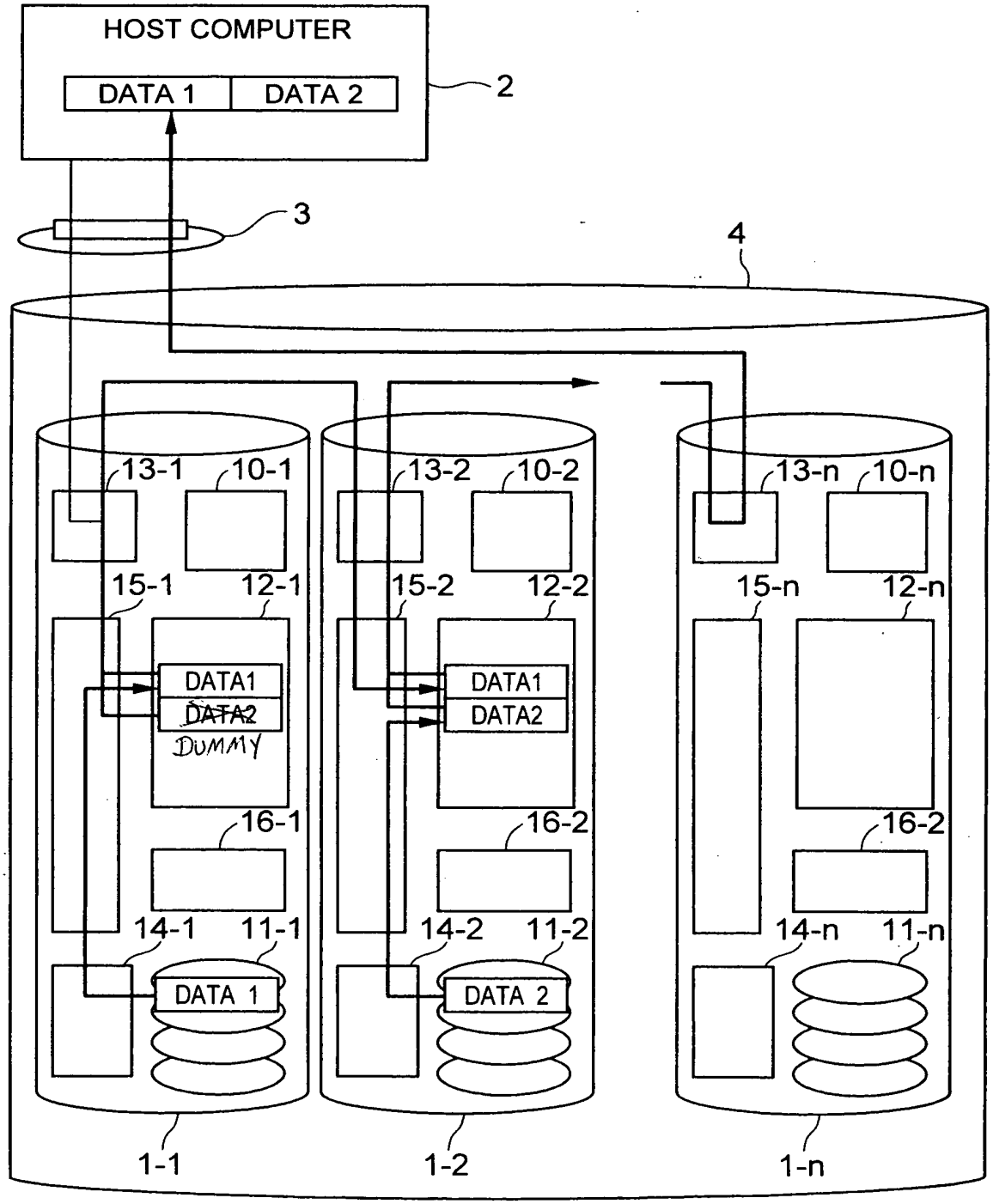

FIG. 33